

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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56-51 F770004-1868

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Action

EUR

Info

FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 221. AUGUST 16, 9 PM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 221. BONN PRIORITY 194, INFORMATION LONDON 130, MOSCOW 125, PARIS 136. POLAD USAREUR 120.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESEL AND MCGUIRE.

HAVING WITNESSED DRAMATIC ACTIONS TAKEN BY EAST LAST SUNDAY, BERLIN LEADERS AND POPULATION HAVE AWAITED TANGIBLE COUNTER-ACTIONS BY ALLIES. AS GOVMAYOR TOLD MR. EDWARD R. MURROW AND MYSELF IN SEPARATE COVERSACTIONS YESTERDAY. HE IS CONCERNED WHAT THE EFFECT OF DISILLUSIONMENT ON THIS SCORE WILL BE ON THE MORALE OF WEST BERLINERS. I REALIZE POSSIBILITY OF SOME EXAGGERATION ON MAYOR'S PART, BUT HE GAVE ME IMPRESSION HE WAS TRYING TO PLAY DOWN RATHER THAN PLAY UP THIS DANGER; MANY OTHER INDEPENDENT SOURCE SUBSTANTIATE FACT WE MAY HAVE A REAL PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS. WHILE MAINTENANCE OF CONFIDENCE OF WEST BERLINERS IS ONLY ONE FACET FOR CONSIDERATION IN DEVELOPING ALLIED POLICY, IT IS OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT FACET THAT SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED.

WE ARE RECEIVING DISTURBING REPORTS FROM VARIOUS CHANNELS REGARDING INCREASED COCKINESS, SMUGNESS AND JUBILATION OF EAST ZONE OFFICIALS AND POLICE, MANY OF WHOM WERE APPARENTLY EXTREMELY UNCERTAIN ON SUNDAY OF ABILITY TO GET AWAY WITH SEAL-OFF OF WEST BERLIN. THIS ATMOSPHERE REFLECTED IN INSULTING, SARCASTIC, INSUFFERABLE BROADCASTS BY EAST RADIO AND TV, WHICH TAUNT WEST BERLINERS RE THEIR MISPLACED CONFIDENCE IN OCCUPYING POWERS, WHOSE UNRELIABILITY AS DEFENDERS AND GENERAL IMPOTENCY CLAIMED NOW TO BE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED. IT IS OUR OBSERVATION THAT THIS IRKSOME PROPAGANDA NOT

WITHOUT

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO	ACTION TAKEN	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R
NAME OF OFFICER	DATE OF ACTION	Initiated by
OFFICE SYMBOL		

F770004-1861

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-2- 221, AUGUST 16, 9 PM FROM BERLIN

WITHOUT EFFECT IN WEST BERLIN. EASTERN AT SELF CONFIDENCE ALSO NO DOUBT RESPONSIBLE FOR RAPID FOLLOW UP ACTION BY GDR IN CONTROLLING WEST BERLIN VEHICULAR TRAFFIC TO EAST SECTOR.

HANDLING OF PROBLEM HINGES TO GREAT EXTENT ON INTERPRETATION OF SERIOUSNESS OF DEVELOPMENT WE FACE. BERLINERS CONSIDER IT VERY SERIOUS INDEED. ASIDE FROM EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL HEARTBREAKING EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THEIR MIDST WHICH APPEAR TO SET FINAL SEAL ON DIVISION OF CITY AND ISOLATION OF WEST BERLIN, BERLINERS VIEW GDR MOVES AS MAJOR STEP IN ADVANCING ITS PROGRAM TO TAKE OVER WEST BERLIN. THEY FEEL FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS MOVE WILL ONLY INVITE AND SPEED UP IMPLEMENTATION OF FURTHER MORE DRASTIC MEASURES. IN THEIR OPINION SITUATION IS SIMILAR BUT FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN LAST SEPTEMBER WHEN STRONG COUNTERMEASURES SUCCEEDED DETERRING FURTHER HARASSMENTS, ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT SUCCEED IN FORCING RECISSION OF SEPTEMBER 8 DECREE.

LIGHTNER

KEA

NOTE: Advance copies to GER and SO, 8/16/7:30 PM. EH.

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